Electric Supply Schemes.

20. The Trivandrum Electric Supply Scheme, which is run on commercial lines, was working satisfactorily and was further developed during the year. The demand for power is on the increase and it is anticipated that a fifth generating set may have soon to be installed. The total length of the overhead mains was extended by 9·5 miles. The electric licensee at Kottayam was able to provide the local Municipal Council with street lights early in February last. A license for the supply of electrical energy at Nagercoil has been granted, and the investigation of the Alleppey electric supply scheme will soon be taken up. For some years past, the question of harnessing some of the many waterfalls in the State in order to generate cheap electrical energy has been engaging the attention of Government. The local schemes now in operation and those in contemplation will be helpful in popularising the use of electric power and may be scrapped when more comprehensive schemes capable of supplying power at cheaper rates are brought into operation. In Quilon, there seems to be a demand for electric power and there are a number of other towns which would also go in for such power if available at cheap rates. The advantages which will result to cottage industries and to factory industries from the supply of cheap power cannot be over-estimated. A rough survey of the sources of hydro-electric power in the State has been already made, and the time seems to have arrived for a detailed examination of a major scheme. The Government have sanctioned a detailed investigation of the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme being carried out, and the necessary preliminaries for the work have already been commenced.

Railway.

21. The Chackai-Tampanur Railway Extension was opened for traffic on the 4th November, 1931. Inclusive of the expenditure of Rs. 5·06 lakhs on the Extension during 1106, the total outlay till the end of the year amounted to Rs. 16·22 lakhs, not taking into account the suspense heads aggregating Rs. 1·53 lakhs. The works have been almost completed, and it only remains to check the final bills and close the accounts. The preparation of the project estimates and plans of all the lines surveyed are under preparation, except of the Trivandrum-Nagercoil line which has been completed. While the working of the railway line from Shencotta to Trivandrum resulted in a net loss of Rs. 10,796 in 1105, there was a net profit of Rs. 26,498 in 1106.

Medical and Ayurveda.

22. The control of the Medical Department continued to be vested in the Administrative Board, Medical Services, first constituted in Dhanu 1101. Two lady Sub-Assistant Surgeons were newly entertained in the deparment and posted to the hospitals at Mavelikara and Kozhenchery. As an experimental measure, a tincture factory has been built in the General Hospital premises, the necessary machinery has been erected and the staff has begun work from the 1st Kumbham 1107. If the scheme proves a success financially and the quality of the

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